

## CENTRALLY MANAGED AND DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system thereof for distributing, implementing and  
5 managing applications on computer systems, in particular client computer  
systems coupled to server computer systems in a network. A client-based shell  
program downloads and installs text-based files, such as files that are written  
using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax. The XML files define  
different components (objects) of an application. The shell program meshes the  
10 XML files to create the application. The application can be updated by  
downloading and installing a new version of an XML file. The application can  
be executed on a client computer system with or without a network connection  
to a server computer system. The application can also be executed on the  
client computer system while waiting for a response from the server to a  
15 preceding request. Thus, the functionality of a "fat" client is provided in a "thin"  
client.